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PHOTOGRAPHY / Jane Addams Allen

The president's personal photographer, Michael Evans, has come up with an absolutely brilliant idea. With the aid of CBS Magazines and American Express, he has put out a Washington yearbook.

"People and Power; Portraits from the Federal Village," published with unprecedented speed by Harry M. Abrams Inc., will be an essential memory aid for any Washingtonian who has graduated from the last four years. Portrayed against the standard dark gray background, 314 of Washington's movers and shakers look directly out at the camera with that mixture of nervousness, assertiveness and determination to appear at ease so familiar from our high-school graduation photographs.

Of course, as with most ideas, Mr. Evans' concept needs a little refining. The book's text is a little academic — too many high-sounding phrases and not enough captions, quotes and pithy anecdotes. One could use a more sprightly design, too, and how about some candid shots of seniors having fun?

But where it counts, Mr. Evans has really delivered the goods. Turn the pages of "People and Power," and there they are — the members of the ruling class caught in guarded moments.

A few, like former CIA director William Casey, look confident and smile openly. "I've never seen him so cheerful," comments Mr. Evans, "He must have just made an intelligence coup."

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